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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Office of the Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, on this day, when our thoughts are focused on the violence that is all about us, we remember, reflect, and give thanks for individuals, young and old, who innocently lost their lives as a result of that violence. When a Cain kills an Able, we must confess that all of humanity is less because of it and all of humanity is pained from the act.

From shootings on city streets to the horrors of bombings bringing great loss of life and grief to people, our hearts cry out, Why, O God, Why?

With violence so commonplace, hatred so prevalent, anger so much a part of our lives, we must pray, O God, for a new understanding of Your peace.

We pray for a peace that will allow the lion and lamb to lie down together.

And, we pray for a peace where brother or sister will not again willfully or maliciously harm another human creature in Your kingdom.

So, for a few moments, as the work of the day begins in this place, we let our souls speak to You, O God, in words and thoughts that rise up in our innermost being. May the moments and our quiet personal expressions be a fitting tribute to the many who died a year ago and throughout this year as a result of humanity's violence. May our thoughts be also prayers for all those who now are left only with memories. Let us each in our own way remember and pray.

Hear our prayers, O Lord. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN TRIBUTE TO OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING VICTIMS

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks the House to join in a silent prayer for 168 seconds in honor and memory of the 168

Americans who died 1 year ago in Oklahoma City.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF VICTIMS AND THE PEOPLE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

(Mr. GINGRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise today and on behalf of the entire House to express to the families of those who were killed 1 year ago and to the people of Oklahoma City who have borne up under such a tragedy the House's condolences, our sense of commitment to working with the people of Oklahoma City. I want to express the grief that all of us feel, both at the personal level for the loss of loved ones, for families torn apart, for children left without parents, for parents who lost children, but also to express what I think was the shock and the outrage of the whole House, and I believe of the whole country, that an American could do such a thing to other Americans.

I believe everyone in this House joins in condemning that kind of vicious and mindless violence against our fellow citizens, and on this day, in memory of the citizens of Oklahoma City, this House, I am sure, unanimously would want to extend our prayers, our concerns, and our thoughts to those families and in memory of their loved ones.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING VICTIMS

(Mr. MONTGOMERY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the minority leader, Mr. Gephardt, and from my side of the aisle, we join with the Speaker in expressing our sadness of what has happened in Oklahoma City and where 168 were killed. We just had a silence of the whole House of 168 seconds in memory of those people who did lose their lives, so we should never forget or let this happen again, if possible.

I am not sure whether we could control sad incidents such as this, but to the people and individuals who were involved in government work, visiting that facility at Oklahoma City, we certainly go out and reach for them. As mentioned by the Speaker, some of these individuals were severely wounded, and watching in the news, these persons are fighting back, they are taking their wounds and they are moving ahead, and that is what we have to do in this great country.

So on behalf of my other colleagues, this is a sad day for us. Let us hope that it will never happen again.

LIBERAL JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

(Mr. CLINGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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